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Statement dated 10 April 2003 from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Jamaica

The representative of Jamaica to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-sixth session has requested circulation of the attached statement dated 10 April 2003 from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Jamaica (see annex).

V.03-83322 (E)

Annex

Statement dated 10 April 2003 from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Jamaica

The Honourable A. J. Nicholson, Q.C., Attorney General and Minister of Justice, in his presentation to the Lay Magistrates Association at Stephanie Hall, on 29 March 2003, in the presence of Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, Minister of National Security, made reference to the Chevannes Commission Report (which recommended the decriminalization of the personal use of small quantities of marijuana by adults in private). He advised the Lay Magistrates that the report had been considered by a Joint Select Committee of Parliament in the last term and that the Committee had not completed its deliberation.

He advised the gathering that the report is to go back to Parliament to be debated, he also encouraged the Lay Magistrates to participate in the debate.

At no time did he raise the issue of legalization, as that is not a question that is being considered by the Government of Jamaica.

(*Signed*) Carol **Palmer**

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Justice of Jamaica